AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

HOW TO GET COMPLAINTS BEFORE U.S. LABOR BOARD

Washington, Nov. 9.—In a statement on how to get complaints before the national war labor board, John C. Chatman Walsh says his board does not issue general rules and regulations but decides each case on its merits in the light of these principles.

"The workers should therefore first take up with their employers all questions affecting working conditions," he says. "If the employer does not agree to an equitable adjustment the workers may either present their complaint directly to the national war labor board or request the secretary of labor to assign a commissioner of conciliation to the case. It is the duty of this conciliator to endeavor to bring the employer and the workers together in an agreement. If he fails to do so, the conciliator should then present the matter to the national war labor board in a formal complaint. Blanks upon which this complaint may be made will be sent to any one upon request by the secretary of the national war labor board, Washington, D. C.

"It is not necessary that the workers be organized in order that grievances against an employer may be recognized by the war labor board. If it be necessary that all of the workers in a plant join in the complaint.

"If 90 or more workers present a complaint to the national war labor board, it will receive the same considerate attention that is given to a complaint made in the name of three workers. In fact, the war labor board will consult from the records of hearings of all the workers in the plant and not merely those who joined in the complaint. It is best, of course, that the complaint be presented by or through a group of the workers duly authorized to represent their fellows.

"Cases are taken by the war labor board either on direct submission of workers and employers, or if either side refuses to come in, on the complaint of the party is served upon the other side, with a summons from the board, after which it will hear the grievance as set forth and take appropriate action."

EIGHT HOURS ENOUGH, DECLARES HENRY FORD

Washington, Nov. 8.—Henry Ford, automobile manufacturer, and one of America's large employers of labor, declares that eight hours is enough to work and that his experience and his reason teaches him "that very few emergencies ever exist in a manufacturing business justifying the practice of working more than eight hours per day."

Mr. Ford made this statement in connection with his decision as umpire for the national war labor board in the case of the machinists' union versus the Wheeling (W. Va.) Steel and Iron Company.

The question submitted to Umpire Ford was:

"Should the national war labor board render a decision granting the demand of the machinists for a basic eight-hour day with time and one-half for overtime and double time for holidays."

To this question Umpire Ford answered "Yes."

Apart from his official decision, the labor umpire said:

"But I cannot refrain from expressing my very deep conviction that the straight eight-hour day is much better practice than the so-called 'eight-hour basis day,' under the latter is continually and almost uniformly being practically exceeded to the number of working hours.

"My experience, and also my reasoning teaches me that very few emergencies ever exist in a manufacturing business, justifying the practice of habitually working more than eight days. The strain of eight hours is enough and the hours should never be increased except under the most extraordinary circumstances. I cannot help but feel, of course, that the complaint be presented by or through a group of the workers duly authorized to represent their fellows.

"Cases are taken by the war labor board either on direct submission of workers and employers, or if either side refuses to come in, on the complaint of the party is served upon the other side, with a summons from the board, after which it will hear the grievance as set forth and take appropriate action."

YANKS "OVER THERE" DESPISE PROFITEERS

Philadelphia, Nov. 9.—Profiteers who have been hiding behind the flag will not have very sailing after the war, according to an American soldier who has returned from France and is interviewing new troops at Camp Dix, N. J. This veteran has a wound chevron on his sleeve and is quoted in a local newspaper.

"There is one kind of news that rifles every soldier—to know that profiteering creatures are making great sums of money by illegally exposing the government and the people at home for whom you are giving your life, if necessary. Across a feeling that you can't describe, except that you despise and hate these traitors as much as you despise and hate the Hun.

"When a group of soldiers get together with nothing to do but talk, which wasn't often by choice, one was almost sure to bring up the subject of the profiteers. Well, I think if some of these profiteers could have heard what the American fighting men are planning to do to them when they get home they'd change their kind of work in a hurry for some far-off neutral land.

"So, there is no concerted movement. Such things are not known in the army. But the men I met all feel alike on this one subject. They all look upon profiteering as treasonable.

"This thing has burned into their very souls. They won't forget! The profiteers may get by 'talking' their games now."

OLD SHOP PRACTICES ARE VETOED BY U.S.

Washington, Nov. 9.—Industry as related to the worker will be overhauled by Uncle Sam, who has called the trade unionists, health authorities and safety experts to emphasize to employers that upon the human element rests efficiency and production, while workers will be urged to accept the principles of research and practice.

To this purpose the department of labor has created the working conditions service. There are three sections in the service, the conservation of industrial hygiene and medicine, division of labor administration and division of safety engineering. The first named division will perfect standards of health codes for industry.

The labor administration will deal with "the attitude and policies of the management toward the employed, and the personal relations between employers and employed," and the safety division will be responsible for the development of the theory of mechanical safety, by the impetus of a federal-directed campaign for uniform safety standards, practices and appliances, supervision of the selection and changing of these standards as new conditions arise.

For the purposes of its purposes, the new organization issues this statement:

"It is the intention of the working conditions service to seek the cooperation of the trade unions and associations concerned directly or indirectly with working conditions, to the end that all standards shall be the results of clearfully considered judgments based upon expert and scientific investigations. There are three ultimate ends in view: Health, production, industrial organization. There is need for employers to understand the human element in production and development of the workers' personal and physical ability conditions, quantitatively and qualitatively. There is need for workmen to understand good health, skill, good management, care in prevent accidents, waste in handling material well being and greater opportunities for advancement."

The director of the working conditions service is Grant Hamilton, formerly industrial representative of the A. F. of L. The assistant director is Florence J. Thorne, former assistant to Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federationist.

DISCUSS AFTER-WAR PLANS.

San Francisco, Nov. 9.—While not formally before them, officers of the California state federation of labor are discussing a number of important resolutions referred by the last state convention to a committee, of which the president and secretary-treasurer shall be members. This committee will report at the present its findings to the executive board of the federation at the earliest possible date.

The resolutions touch on almost every phase of reconstruction, and the spirit or ownership of public utilities is clear. A demand is made that the burdens of the war on the backs of those best able to bear it.

One of the resolutions declare:

"When peace comes capital will be needed at once for the arts of enterprises, and the resources of the financially powerful classes have to be vastly greater than they were before the war. Innumerable private fortunes have been piled up by those who have taken advantage of the country's need. One-tenth of the population owns nine-tenths of the riches of the country. Justice to the people demands a revolution of national finance. We should consider how are to discharge the public debt reaching into the billions."

THICK-NECK EMPLOYERS CAUSE AWFUL TRAGEDY

New York, Nov. 9.—The worst traffic tragedy in local history is the price this community pays for the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company's persecution of trade union employes and its refusal to accept a decision by the national war labor board, which ordered the company to reinstate 28 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, instead of obeying the order company officials questioned the board's jurisdiction on the ground that "the discharged men are employes of the company, not in the company's employ," and referred the matter to the trustees of the B. R. T. Employes' association, a company controlled organization.

To maintain these rights and to check victimization the employes suspended work and the company ordered a train dispatcher to take out a train of five cars crowded with 900 passengers. On rounding a curve at a high rate of speed the operator of the train found a car on the track, killing 10 and injuring approximately the same number. Broken necks—operated by the company in defiance of orders by the public service commission—burst into flames, adding to the number of killed and injured.

The guilt of the company for this holocaust was so evident that the defendants in the subsequent trial assumed a city-wide indignation and the management was credited with the national war labor board's order by reinstating the discharged employes with full seniority rights and the strike was declared off.

The company also agrees to enter into an agreement with the committee of the employes to end the strike. Heretofore the company has absolutely refused to recognize its controlled "union" on employes.

ORDERED MEN REINSTATED.

Washington, Nov. 9.—The national war labor board has ordered reinstatement relative to the killing of scores of people by the cars of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company following the refusal of that corporation to accept the board's award.

"The national war labor board investigated the controversy between the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company and its employes when its offices were located in the Equitable building, N. Y. The case came before this board on complaint of employes who had been or were not allowed to join the union of their choice. The company denied the jurisdiction of the board and submitted evidence to controvert the claims of the employes.

"The board's examiners held hearings at New York, and the board, on October 4, made its findings and award. The board's findings were based upon the principles of the president's proclamation creating the board and the principles of the national war labor board relative to collective bargaining to its trainmen.

"No further action has been taken in the case. The board has no power to enforce its findings, should either party fail to accept the findings of them set. In the statement of its findings the board says: 'We have reached these conclusions with the hope that they may be made the basis for an accommodation between the employer company and the discontent employes.'"

CITY-OWNED CAR LINES HAS LOST ITS TERROR

New York, Nov. 9.—Municipal ownership of street cars has lost its terror to the American Electric Railway Association, which has referred to its executive committee a resolution recommending that the member companies encourage "in every reasonable way the public acquisition of the present electric railway properties."

The president of the association was outspoken in the opinion that the association when the executive committee is ready to make its report on the resolution.

This action was taken at a meeting of the association in the city which was attended by representatives of 85 per cent of the power and electric street car lines.

The resolution declares that municipal ownership "are no longer of value, and that legislation, high wages and high prices for material have made it impossible to earn a compensatory return." Another part of the resolution says that the private owners will "make sacrifices rather than see the properties be deprived of street railway service."

President McCulloch of the Illinois Traction company, St. Louis, Mo., made the point that public ownership agitation is due to "a misunderstanding of the civil service and that then they pay would be regulated as is the pay of firemen, policemen and other city employes who often receive less than railroad employes. He said St. Louis man believed this feature of public ownership would solve the traction problem.

In discussing the question of paying for street cars, the committee favors "arranging such terms of payment as conveniently accord with the financial policies of the respective states and municipalities." This would indicate that state, county and allied interests will oppose the people taxing themselves heavily for a few years to pay these charges, but favor long-term bonds with a set percentage charged to operating expenses as is the case now with the federal government and railroads, telegraph, telephone and express companies during the war period.

PENSION PLAN WOULD PAY.

Washington, Nov. 9.—In urging the senate to pass his retirement bill for aged government employes, Senator Sheppard of Texas showed his colleagues that aside from the humane feature of the plan it would be a paying project for Uncle Sam.

"It is estimated," said the lawmaker, "that there are 7,500 of these superannuated employes and that 4,000 are absolutely useless to the government. The proof before our committee showed that these 4,000 men and women who have been retained in the service of the government that 4,000 of them are absolutely incompetent to perform the duties at all, and probably the salary of each one would amount to about $1,000 per year. The salaries are being paid out toward these 4,000 incompetent employes by the time the government gets no return at all, and there are 3,500 left from which the government receives partial return, and that will probably nearly or nearly offset the salary for the benefit of the employes, if it will be shown the increased efficiency and in saving the large salaries now paid to superannuated employes."

MORE EMPLOYES UNDER U. S.

Washington, Nov. 9.—The United States railroad administration, through its board of wages and working conditions, will hereafter have supervision over all questions and conditions of express employes, according to information received by President Tobin of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Helpers of America, secretary of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. These trade union executives were notified that they must first take up grievances with officials of the express company, and Director General of Railroads McAdoo is to be appealed to next if no relief is had, rather than confer with the companies. The director general has approved this plan, and an order has been issued to this effect.

The railroad administration never now organizing these employes. The A. F. of L. unions gained jurisdiction of the two brotherhoods, which are confronted by numerous little company unions, formed by internal associations, promoted and encouraged by express officials in an effort to check the growth of bona fide trade unionism.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Nov. 9.—Wage differences between the Typographical union and newspaper publishers have been settled. Men are advanced 50 cents a day. The new scale provides $37 a week for the evening newspapers and $37 for morning newspapers.

Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 9.—The new eight-hour law for the building trades union is now in effect. A one-year contract calls for a wage increase of 50c, the rate paid to newspaper printers.

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 9.—Wage increases of 10 cents a day have been secured by newspaper printers in this city.

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

Savannah, Ga., Nov. 8.—Refusal of the Savannah Electric company to improve working conditions or recognize the union is given as the reason in any form resulted in a strike of these workers.

In a notice posted in the barns the company stated that it will meet committees of individuals and calls attention to the government's efforts to settle labor disputes, and refused to include in its notice the government's declaration that employers have the right to bargain collectively.

WHO PROFITEERS?

Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 9.—Who says that labor is profiteering in this war, asks the Metal Polishers' Journal.

"The national war labor board has just signed upon 44 wage scales ranging from 44 cents per hour to 75 cents per hour, and has ordered corporations to increase wages in hundreds of cases."

PAPER WORKERS GAIN.

Appleton, Wis., Nov. 2.—Employes at the Kimberly Clark Paper company are organizing and the company announces a "voluntary" wage increase.

Child Labor Exploitation Increases Since Court Vetoed Power

Washington, Nov. 8.—Investigations conducted by the children's bureau of the department of labor show a great increase in the employment of child labor since the federal child labor law was declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court. This law prohibited the transportation in interstate commerce of commodities made by children under 14 years of age, and under 16 years in mines and quarries. It also provided that children between 14 and 16 years should not be employed more than eight hours a day, six days a week and not before 6 a. m. or after 7 p. m.

The children's bureau states that since the federal law has been set aside the long-work day for children has again been established. In North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia an 11-hour day and the 66-hour week are permitted. In the former state children from 5 to 11 years were found employed more than eight hours a day.

"The limitation of the hours of work is more generally objected to than the age limit," the children's bureau reports. "Careful study made here and in England indicate that long hours of work are no longer considered economical for the adult worker, is peculiarly dangerous for the child. The medical director of the board of education in London says that of all the undesirable working conditions (for children) the most radical and persistent is that of long hours. It is a conservable and significant fact that all children employed over 48 hours in the dominant evil is not accident, or poisoning, or deformities, or specific diseases, but the steady drain and fatigue of the immature body due to long or unsuitable hours of occupation."

To abolish the child labor evil the A. F. of L. and other organizations and individuals are urging the passage of a federal law that will place a ban on the products of child labor. The attorney general, secretary of the treasury and the secretary of labor shall constitute a board to make rules and regulations for the valuing of goods produced by children for the purpose of the tax and for carrying out the provisions of the proposed law.

In order to prevent fraud upon the revenue by sending the tax to secretary of labor or any person authorized by him, shall have authority to enter and inspect at any time any mine, quarry, mill, factory or other manufacturing establishment.

Friends of this proposed legislation believe it will remove objection raised by the United States supreme court which it invalidated the federal child labor law. In that case the court held that congress can not prohibit the interstate commerce transportation of a thing not intrinsically evil, as lottery tickets, etc., and that, therefore, congress can not regulate one of regulation and that exclusion of these articles per se goes beyond regulation.

Opponents of child labor are acting on the theory that since the United States supreme court has declared that the right to prohibit the interstate transportation of child labor products, the right to regulate such products is conceded. The proposed plan now is to impose a tax on these products so high that the profit-selling unprofitable.

It has been suggested that the proposed act be attached as a "rider" to the big war revenue bill, which has passed the house, and is now pending in the senate.

EMPLOYERS AT OLD GAME.

Chicago, Nov. 9.—Trade unionists are protesting against the attempt of employers to use the government's labor needs for their private benefit.

In a letter to Secretary of Labor Wilson President Fitzpatrick of the Chicago federation of labor says the strongest objection is made against procedure now being followed by the government's interest; "but we do protest against employers and manufacturers' associations using the war needs to reduce to subjugate, intimidate and destroy the trade unions in time of starvation wages, and that is just what is beginning."

Fitzpatrick asks state federation of labor and the local trade union movement. President Fitzpatrick continues:

"We feel that if you can adopt a policy whereby that army of workers who refuses to subscribe to and contribute to the patriotic loan drive by the national war labor board and the spirit of the president's proclamation regarding same that you will refer them to any co-operation through the employment service of the department of labor; it would be an effective way to secure real co-operation on the part of the employer and the workers so that the government's interests would be advanced."

NEGLECT RURAL CHILDREN.

Washington, Nov. 8.—That thousands of children in rural and small town communities are being deprived of a fair chance for normal development is the assertion of the children's bureau, department of labor, in a report on conditions which tend to juvenile wrong doing in the country.

It is stated that 125 New York state children who were implicated in one sort of wrong doing and who came from 144 different families were studied, and that family surroundings were scanned in an effort to discover what had led them astray. The report of the children's bureau says in part:

"Lack of opportunity for mental and mental training, for recreation and for the right sort of work are the dominant evil is not accident, or poisoning, or deformities, or specific diseases, but the steady drain and fatigue of the immature body due to

MAY FIX WOMEN'S WAGE.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The minimum wage board for working women and children in the District of Columbia has perfected its organization. The board was created by a recent congressional enactment and consists of one representative of the employers, one of the employees and one of the general public.

The duty of the board is to investigate claims that any group of women in the district receive wages so low the living line. If this is found to be true a conference may be called of representatives of employers and employed and the general public, when a fair wage is determined and recommendations made to the minimum wage board, which may approve or reject it. Before a minimum wage is put into effect a public hearing will be held.

If an employer refuses to accept the board's order he may appeal to the courts for the difference. As a defense the employer cannot claim that the wage paid was justified by work less than the board ordered.

WORK-CARD PLAN LOSES.

New Orleans, La., Nov. 8.—Local trade unionists have punched a proposed "work card"-scheme full of holes, but not in the manner intended by its advocates.

The plan provided that every male between the ages of 17 and 45 years should have one of these cards in his possession or be arrested. Blanks on the card, when punched, would indicate the number of days and hours per day the holder worked each month.

The organized workers gave the card that they one will have a merry time forcing us to take one of these cards," and many "slackers" "peonage." The date for enforcing the system is "postponed" by the chief of police, who has been asked to point out the law that justifies the "work card."

FIRE FIGHTERS UNITE

Baltimore, Nov. 9.—Municipal firemen in this city have formed a union and affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 8.—Fire Fighters' union No. 6 is dissatisfied with a recent wage award by city authorities which gives the firemen $1.35 to $2 on the ground that this was the maximum wage they could legally demand. In a statement to the public these municipal employes declare that the increase means an additional $100,000 to the city treasury but they receive a very small proportion of it.

WANT $1 A DAY RAISE.

Washington, Nov. 9.—A salary increase of $1 a day for all employes of the government will be asked for at the opening of the December session of congress, it is announced Federation of Federal Employes. The $125 increase bill passed by congress for the current fiscal year, the industrial way, has proved an almost negligible boon, it is said, meeting the increased cost of living in connection with the war, and the demand at the end of the year unless there is new legislation on the subject.

TEACHERS UNITING.

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 9.—School teachers are awakening to the need of organization and more unions in this calling are being formed.

WAR LABORS HELD.

Washington, Nov. 9.—Henry Ford, automobile manufacturer, and one of America's large employers of labor, declares that eight hours is enough to work and that his experience and his reason teaches him "that very few emergencies ever exist in a manufacturing business justifying the practice of habitually working more than eight hours per day."

Mr. Ford made this statement in connection with his decision as umpire for the national war labor board in the case of the machinists' union versus the Wheeling (W. Va.) Steel and Iron Company.

The question submitted to Umpire Ford was:

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HOLD YOUR LIBERTY BONDS.

Washington, Nov. 9.—The treasury department has again appealed to the people not to sell their liberty bonds unless absolutely necessary, and then only at the market price, and not to exchange them for worthless securities.

"United States government bonds in the past have gone above par as high as 129 for a 100 4 per cent bond," it is stated. "Liberty bonds will go well above par when peace comes is very probable. Everything else, therefore, is unwise as well as patriotic.

"Every owner of a liberty loan bond should heed the caution to hold to his or her bonds, because there are going to be great calls for patriotic and unpatriotic people to buy or secure at inadequate prices these bonds from holders who are not well informed as to stock and bond values.

"Nevertheless stock or stock of only speculative value is going to be offered for liberty bonds. Some will be urged not to sell or exchange their liberty bonds, but to buy the stock and give the liberty bonds as payment for the purchase price. This is a cannonball attempt to get liberty bonds in exchange for the stock of their companies.

"If every holder of a liberty bond will consult his or her dispassionate self about it, the get-rich-quick concerns will not prosper, but the interests of bond holders will and the American people as a whole will be benefited."

SHOE LABOR IS 36.8 CENTS.

Washington, Nov. 9.—That labor cost is a small item in the manufacture of shoes, despite present high prices, is indicated in a report by the United States bureau of labor statistics.

In bulletin No. 232, which gives the wage rates and hours of labor in 1916 in the principal occupations in this industry, is printed a table showing the time and labor cost in the production of 100 pairs of shoes in a representative factory.

To make one pair of shoes in this factory in 1916 required one hour and 25 minutes of labor, for which was 36.8 cents, or a fraction less than 37 cents. This labor cost would necessarily be a few cents higher now because of increased wages. The bureau says that a complete set of data for 1918 is not available, but those of it does possess indicate a show advances over 1916 that range from $2.30 to $6 a week.

LOCATE DEAD SOLDIERS.

Washington, Nov. 9.—The war department calls attention to a work being done by the graves registration service, which is a unit of the quartermaster corps. The purpose of this service is the recovery of dead American soldiers in Europe, the identification of and registration of bodies, the location and recording of graves, the sending of this information to the families of the deceased and the general care of American cemeteries in France. Each unit of the service is composed of captain, one lieutenant and 50 enlisted men, with a total of 14 of these units serving with the American overseas forces.

DESERT COMPANY "UNION."

Dallas, Tex., Nov. 9.—The handpicked "union" of President Carlton of the Texas Tijeras has been repudiated by telegrammers in this city. The members of the traffic department, who hold membership in the "union," have withdrawn from the organization and have joined the Commercial Telegraphers' union.

President Carlton's "union" is along the lines of the "union" controlled by Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron company.

POLISHERS RAISE WAGES.

Trenton, N. J., Nov. 9.—Wages of metal polishers employed by the Jordan L. Mott company have been increased to 40 cents an hour for day workers on an eight-hour basis, time and one-half for overtime and an increase of per cent for piece workers. Piece work conditions will be improved. The minimum will establish a minimum of $34.50 a week for time workers.

PLUMBERS ADVANCE.

Grand Forks, N. D., Nov. 9.—A union-shop agreement secured by Plumbers' and Steamfitters' union calls for the eight-hour day and a wage increase of 10 cents an hour.

BOILER MAKERS UNITE.

Grays Harbor, Wash., Nov. 5.—Boiler makers at this place organized and affiliating with the boilermade trade union movement.

LAW MAKERS BLAMED.

Federal Dam, Minn., Nov. 8.—State Forester Cox blames the Minnesota legislature for the disastrous forest fires which resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives. The refusal of law makers to provide funds for the efficient patrol enabled the flames to make headway, he said.

LOAN GOES "OVER THE TOP."

Washington, Nov. 9.—The fourth liberty loan of $6,000,000,000 was put "over the top" by the minorities people, who contributed, for good measure, an additional $50,350,6.6.

INSIST ON VOTING RIGHTS.

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 9.—Railroad employes will not act aside their rights of citizenship for a job by any man's railroad, declares the Railroad Trainman, in opposing the "no political" order issued by the general of Railroads McAdoo.

"It is time for us to understand that political activity will follow the end of the war," says this publication. "Labor will be entitled to remain in the hands of the government, and it follows that they served and their pay, when they do the same class of work as they shall be the same as that of men."

FRED HEWITT IS APPOINTED.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The appointment of Fred Hewitt, editor of the Machinists' Journal, as successor to the late Thomas J. Savage, to act as alternate on the national war labor board for William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists, has been announced.

Victor Olander, second vice president of the International Seamen's union, succeeded to the place of Chicago because of his eyes. He is being treated by a specialist, labor board by his alternate, Matthew Woll, president of the International Photo Engravers' union.

WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Missoula, Mont. Nov. 9.—Flour and cereal workers secure the eight-hour day with time and one-half for overtime after a three-days lockout.

CITY EMPLOYES GAIN.

Boston, Nov. 9.—The Park Employees' union has secured wage increases of 15½ per cent. This establishes a minimum of $3.50 a day for men employed in state parks.

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BIG MONEY IN PHONES.

New York, Nov. 8.—In the last three years the New York Telephone company has made profits of $45,000,000 in excess of what the state public service commission ruled was a fair return. A reference has been started to reduce telephone charges but the company says that this profit is not unreasonable because a larger amount of capital was invested.

CITY EMPLOYES ACT.

Boston, Nov. 8.—Representatives of 12 unions of city employes have joined in a wages movement.

SHIP BUILDING WON'T END.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The mercantile ship building program of this country will continue, regardless of the war, for a period of at least five years, it is declared by men who are in a position to know the plans of the shipping board and Director General Hurley of the emergency fleet corporation. It is stated that every American ship will be needed after the war, it can do.

The present program calls for 15,000,000 tons of ocean-going ships," said Mr. Schwab. "Today we have 3,500,000 tons. I look for more and we will not have completed our present program until six times more than we have now."

8 HOURS IN ORE MINES.

Chisholm, Minn., Nov. 9.—The United States steel corporation has applied the basic eight-hour day throughout its properties on the Mesabi range. Under this system the employes will continue to work over eight hours but will be paid for overtime.

START CO-OP. MOVE.

St. Albans, W. Va., Nov. 8.—Trade unionists in this vicinity have started a co-operative movement. Stock is being sold at $10 a share.